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By *ADAM FITZ-ADAM.*

To be continued every THURSDAY.

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Poſt mediam noctem——cum ſomnia vera. HOR.

MR. FITZ-ADAM,

AMONG the many viſions related by your predeceſſors and cotemporaries, the writers of periodical eſſays, I remember few but what have been in the oriental ſtyle and character. For my own part, I am neither Derviſe nor Brachman, but a poet and true chriſtian, though given now and then to be a little *heatheniſh* in my expreſſions: and as I apprehend that no one ſet of people will claim the ſole property and privilege of dreaming to themſelves, ſince I am apt to nod as well as my betters, I beg that the following dream may find a place in your paper.

I IMAGINED myſelf to be walking on a road: it was wide and well beaten. An elderly gentleman, with whom I joined company, informed me that it was the road to Parnaſſus, and very obligingly offered me his ſervices. The firſt group of figures which attracted my attention were pale and thin with ſtudy. They were ſhaking ivory letters in a hat, and then throwing them on the ground: I ſuppoſed that they were performing ſome myſtery of the Cabala; but on my nearer approach, learnt that they were the editors and commentators of the ancient poets; and that this was only a ſcheme for aſſiſting conjecture.

BEING now ſtartled with a great noiſe, I turned ſuddenly about, and perceived juſt behind me a ſet of Lyric poets, with one or two Dithyrambics. Their converſation was ſo little connected, and their motions ſo irregular, that I concluded them to be drunk; and, apprehenſive of miſchief in ſo furious a company, quickened my pace.

THE road now winded through the moſt beautiful fields, whoſe very buſhes were all in bloom, and intermingled with ſhrubs, that afforded the moſt agreeable ſcents. The wild notes of the birds, joining with the tinkling of numerous rills that guſhed from natural or artificial rocks, or with the deeper echo of ſome larger flood that fell at a diſtance, made a concert that charmed me. A party were here entertaining themſelves with the gaiety of the ſituation: they had ſtepped out of the road to gather flowers; and were ſo delighted with wandering about the meadows, that they ſeemed entirely to have forgot their journey. They appeared to have been educated in Italy; their hair was curled and powdered, their linen laced, and their habits ſo covered with fringe and embroidery, that it was almoſt impoſſible to diſcover any cloth. I was ſo much in raptures with their company, and with the beauties of this romantic ſcene, that I would have ſtopped there myſelf, and proceeded no farther; but my guide hinted to me that the place was enchanted, and preſſed me to go forwards.

I COULD not help laughing to ſee next a great crowd of Bombaſtics; a ſet of fat, purſy fellows, ſo aſthmatic, that

that they could hardly move, and yet were eternally ſtraining and attempting to run races; as were ſeveral dwarfs in enormous jack-boots, to overtake two horſemen (who rode very ſwift at a vaſt diſtance, and were ſaid to be Milton and Shakeſpear) but tumbled at every four or five ſteps, to the great diverſion of the ſpectators.

A TROOP of modern Latin poets had halted; and having loſt the way, were enquiring it of a man who carried a phraſe-book, and a Gradus ad Parnaſſum in his hand; and ſeemed always to be in a terrible uncertainty, when the authority of their guide either failed or deceived them.

THEY were followed by ſome very genteel ſhepherds, who wore red ſtockings and large ſhoulder knots, fluttering to the breath of the zephyrs. Crooks, glittering with tinſel, were in their hands, and embroidered pouches dangled at their ſides. They talked much about their flocks and Amaryllis; but I ſaw neither the one nor the other; and was ſurprized, as ſome of them pretended to muſic, to hear an air of the Italian opera played upon the bag-pipe. The gentleneſs of their aſpects ſerved to render more formidable, by the contraſt, the countenances of a company that now overtook me. It was a legion of critics. They were very liberal of their cenſures upon every one that paſſed, eſpecially if he made a tolerable figure. DICTION, HARMONY and TASTE were the general terms which they threw out with great vehemence. They frowned on me as I paſſed: my looks diſcovering my fear, the alarm was given; and, at the very firſt ſound of their catcalls, terrified to the laſt degree, I pulled my guide by the coat, and took fairly to my heels.

WE at laſt arrived at the foot of the mountain. There was an inconceivable crowd, who, not being admitted at the entrance, were endeavouring to crawl up the ſides; but as the precipice was very ſteep, they continually tumbled back again. There was but one way of acceſs, which was ſo extremely narrow, that it was almoſt impoſſible for two perſons to go abreaſt, without one juſtling againſt the other. The gates were opened and ſhut by three amiable virgins, GENIUS, GOOD SENSE, and GOOD EDUCATION. They examined all that paſſed.

ſed. Some few however, puſhed forward by a vaſt crowd of friends, forced their way in; but had generally the mortification of being brought back again, and turned out by the centinels.

By the intereſt of my guide, we were permitted to viſit what part of Parnaſſus we pleaſed; and having mounted the hill, we entered a large garden, and were ſoon loſt in the paths of a very intricate grove. It was in ſome places ſo exceedingly dark, that we had great difficulty to find our way out. This LABYRINTH OF ALLEGORY, as it was called, was held by the ancients in a kind of ſuperſtitious reverence. The gloom of it was often ſo great, that we were ready to tumble at every ſtep; but wherever the ſhade was ſoftened by a twilight ſufficient for us juſt to diſcover our way, there was ſomething very delightful, as well as venerable, in the ſcene.

In other parts of the garden we ſaw beds of the moſt beautiful flowers, and a great number of Bay-trees; but not a ſingle Fruit-tree. Among the ſhrubs, in many rivulets of different breadth and depth, ran the Heliconian ſtream. The leſſer rills, on account of the vaſt multitude of people continually dabbling in them, were very muddy; but the fountain-head, though extremely deep, was as clear as chryſtal. The water had ſometimes this peculiar quality, that whoever looked into it, ſaw his own face reflected with great beauty, though never ſo deformed; inſomuch, that ſeveral were known to pine away there, in a violent affection for their own perſons. At the end of the garden were ſeveral courts of judicature, where cauſes were then hearing. The leſſer court, which was that of criticiſm, was prodigiouſly crowded: for (as we obſerved afterwards) all thoſe who had loſt their cauſes as poets defendant in the principal court, turned in hither, and became plantiffs in their turn, on pretence of little treſpaſſes. In the principal court many actions were brought on the ſtatute of maiming; chiefly by the ancients, and ſome celebrated moderns, againſt their editors and amenders, and for torts and wrongs againſt their interpreters and commentators. Not a few indictments were brought for petty larceny, and thoſe chiefly by the roman poets againſt the modern latin ones.

Not far from theſe was the ſtable, or *ecurie*, of his poetic majeſty. I was greatly ſurprized to ſee more than one Pegaſus. The grooms were juſt then going to water them, which gave me an opportunity of taking more particular notice.

The firſt was the Epic Pegaſus. It was a very fine large horſe, had been taught the *manége*, and moved with great ſtatelineſs. The Pindaric was the only one that had wings: his motions were irregular, ſudden and unequal. The Elegiac was a gelding, exceedingly delicate in it's ſhape, and much gentler than any of the reſt, particularly than another ſteed, which foamed, and pulled with ſuch violence, that it was with great difficulty the rider held him in. As I attempted to ſtroke him, he clapped his ears back, and ſtruck out his heels with a vehemence that made me cautious of putting myſelf in the way of the Satiric Pegaſus for the future. The Epigrammatic was a little pert poney, which every ſix or ſeven paces kicked up, and very much reſembled the former, ſize only excepted. Beſides theſe, there were ſeveral others, which did not properly belong to Apollo's ſtud, and which were employed in many uſeful, but laborious offices, as ſubſervient to the reſt.

It was impoſſible to paſs by the ſtables without making ſome enquiry after the original Pegaſus, ſo much celebrated, and the ſire from whom all the laſt-mentioned drew their pedigree. A ſour-looking fellow of a critic, whoſe province it was to curry him, informed me with great expreſſions of ſorrow, "That the old horſe "was really quite worn out; having been rode through "all ſorts of roads, on all ſorts of errands: for that there "was ſcarce a pedant living or dead, or even a boy who "had been five years at ſchool, but had been upon him, "either with leave or without: that he had long ago "loſt his ſhoes, broke his knees and ſlipped his ſhoul-"der; and that therefore Apollo, in pity to the poor "beaſt, and to prevent ſuch barbarity for the future, had "ordered an edict to be fixed upon the door of the ſtable, "that no perſon or perſons within his realms, ſhould for "the future ride or drive him, without firſt producing "his proper licence and qualification."

At length we arrived at the higheſt part of the mountain, where the temple was ſituated. It was a large building of marble, of one colour, and built all in the ſame order. The ſtatues and baſs-reliefs which adorned it, repreſented ſome well-known part of poetic hiſtory. The whole appeared at once ſolid and elegant without that profuſion